(b) The work sanctioned on 3200 RKM is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

(c) The work on 3200 RKM has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 267.93 crores. The system uses Global System of Mobile Communication for Railways GSM-(R) technology which has been standardized by International Union of Railways (UIC).

(d) and (e) The GSM-(R) based systems have been installed and are working on various foreign railways i.e. in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, China, etc.

Plantation of Jatropha on Railways' arid land

2390. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is using its arid land (18,000 hectares) for the plantation of Jatropha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways is also using bio-diesel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have been undertaking plantation including Jatropha on its land with a view to improve environment as well as protecting its land from encroachment. However, no separate railway land has been earmarked for undertaking plantation of Jatropha. So far, over one hundred lakh Jatropha trees have been planted.

(c) and (d) Railways is using bio-diesel in limited way as availability at economical price is a constraint.

Doubling of tracks in Southern Railway

2391. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the length of doubling of track works completed in Southern Railway during 2005-06;

(b) what is the target fixed for doubling of track work in Southern Railway in the year 2006-07; and

(c) how many more tracks are under survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 12 Kilometres. Commissioning will be done after non-interlocking works in yards.

(b) 46 Kilometres.

(c) 01.

Rail bridges over Ganga in Patna and Munger

†2392. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail bridges are being constructed under the mega project in Patna and Munger in Bihar respectively on the River Ganga;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pace of construction work of both these rail bridges is very slow and the possibility of completing the construction work within declared time-frame is remote; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including financial outlay and physical achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) On both these bridges various activities related to the project involving land acquisition, earthwork, bridges on the approaches etc. have been taken up. The sub-structure works of the bridges are also in progress. However, the progress is lagging behind as per the original time schedule due to various reasons. An expenditure of Rs. 131.10 crore has been incurred up to 31.3.2006 on Munger bridge and an outlay of Rs. 120 crore has been provided for the work during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.